

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
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TRSE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /064 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2407
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AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR GARBLED PARA 5 LAST TWO LINES

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: --
SUBJECT: TOAST OF ITALIAN PRESIDENT GIOVANNI LEONE AT A DINNER
IN HONOR OF U.S. VICE PRESIDENT WALTER F. MONDALE, AT THE PRESI-
DENTIAL PALACE, THE QUIRINALE, 2100 HRS, ITALIAN TIME,
JANUARY 26, 1977

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF TOAST BY ITALIAN PRESIDENT GIOVANNI LEONE
AT DINNER IN HONOR OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE.

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QUOTE.

MR. VICE PRESIDENT, YOUR PRESENCE HERE INDICATES FIRST OF ALL
THE CONTINUING TIES OF CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WHICH EXIST BETWEEN
OUR TWO COUNTRIES, TIES THAT HAVE BEEN CONSACRATED BY AN
INTERNATIONAL COMMON CHOICE REPRESENTED BY THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.

THIS CHOICE IS NOT ONLY REFLECTED BY A JURIDICAL BOND, BUT ALSO BY A COMMITMENT OF MUTUAL LOYALTY AND FATHFULNESS AND IS NOT ONLY PROMPTED BY REASONS OF SECURITY. THIS CHOICE FURTHERMORE CONFIRMS ITS LASTING VITALITY IN A COMMON IDEOLOGICAL MODEL, IN A POLITICAL CONCEPTION INSPIRED BY THE IDEALS OF FREEDOM, PLURALITY AND CONSENSUS, IN A COMMON TRUST IN THE CREATIVE FORCE OF THE WESTERN WORLD, IN ITS CAPACITY TO FACE AND OVERCOME THE CHALLENGES OF THE PRESNT DAY: THE CHALLENGE OF PEACE, THE CHALLENGE OF DETENTE, THE CHALLENGE OF DEVELOPMENT, THE CHALLENGE OF A JUST AND THEREBY MORE SECURE INTERNATIONAL ORDER.

WE LOOK WITH GREAT HOPE TO THE PROGRAM OF THE NEW PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES - WHICH YOU WORTHLY REPRESENT. THIS IS BECAUSE WE FEEL YOUR EXPERIENCES, AS OUR OWN, BOTH FOR THE HISTORICAL REMINISCENCES WHICH THE BICENTENNIAL HAS REVISED, AND FOR THE PRESENCE WITHIN THE UNITED STATES OF A LARGE AND INDUSTRIOUS GROUP OF CITIZENS OF ITALIAN ORIGIN WHO HAVE BECOME EVER MORE ACTIVE IN EVERY SPHERE. ALSO FOR CULTURAL AFFINITIES WHICH ARE CONSTANTLY BECOMING DEEPER, AND BECAUSE -- ABOVE ALL - WE BELIEVE THAT YOUR FUTURE IS ALSO OUR OWN.

ITALY RECALLS WITH GRATITUDE THE ESSENTIAL AND GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION MADE BY THE UNITED STATES TO ITS RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT DURING THE LAST THIRTY YEARS. SHE IS EQUALLY AWARE THAT COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES IS AN ESSENTIAL PREMISE FOR HER RECOVERY, FOR THE OVERCOMING OF THE DIFFICULTIES RAISED BY THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION.

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MR. VICE PRESIDENT, IN OUR TALKS WE HAVE NOT OVERLOOKED THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF THE ITALIAN SITUATION AND THE RELATED RISKS. THEY ARE LINKED TO THE RISE, PARALLEL TO AN ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT HISTORICAL PRECEDENTS, OF NEW AND JUSTIFIED DEMANDS FOR PARTICIPATION AND FOR SUBSTANTIAL EQUALITY ESPECIALLY BY SECTORS THAT LEGITIMATELY HOPE FOR A GREATER SOCIAL PROMOTION. THESE DEMANDS COULD HAVE BEEN ASSIMILATED BY AN EXPANDING SOCIETY, THANKS TO THE INNOVATIVE CAPACITY WHICH EXISTS IN OUR MODEL OF INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY. HOWEVER THEY HAVE COLLIDED WITH AN ECONOMIC CRISIS DETERMINED LARGELY BY FACTORS OF AN INTERNATINAL NATURE. THEREFORE, WE HAD TO FACE THE NECESSITY TO SIMULTANEOUSLY RECONCILE SOCIAL EXPECTATIONS, RESTRICTIVE MEASURES ON CONSUMPTION AND THE RELAUNCHING OF PRODUCTION.

THE ITALIAN SITUATION SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED MERELY ON THE BASIS OF CURRENT PROBLEMS NOR ONLY IN QUANTITATIVE TERMS. AS A MATTER OF FACT ITALIAN SOCIETY DEMONSTRATES A CREATIVE INTENSITY, A WILLINGNESS TO RESEARCH, CULTURAL FERMENTS SUCH AS TO GIVE US THE CERTAINTY THAT WE FIND OURSELVES

IN A PERIOD OF PROFOUND RECONSIDERATION....

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USMISSION BERLIN PRIORITY
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.....RECONSIDERATION.
IF EVERYONE OF US WILL UNDERTAKE THE NECESSARY COMMITMENT AND
MAKE THE SACRIFICES WHICH THE SITUATION DEMANDS, THIS COULD
REPRESENT THE BEGINNING OF A NEW IMPETUS. ITALY HAS NO
DOUBTS TODAY ABOUT ITS NATIONAL DUTY TO MAKE THE EFFORT NEEDED
TO AVERT LASTING ARREST IN ITS PROGRESS, OWING TO A PAUSE IN
PRODUCTIVE GROWTH AND IN THE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
OF THE COUNTRY. THERE IS NO ITALIAN DISEASE. IF THERE IS
AN ITALIAN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL "MALAISE" IT IS WHAT JEFFERSON
CALLED TH "DISEASE OF LIBERTY" - AN ILLNESS WHICH IS AN EXULTANT
TESTIMONY OF PROFOUND MORAL HEALTH. THE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL
DYNAMICS OF ITALY DO NOT CALL INTO QUESTION THE INTERNATIONAL
STANCE OF THE COUNTRY. THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AS WELL AS THE
EUROPEAN CHOICE, REMAINS ONE OF THE POINTS OF REFERENCE OF ITALIAN
POLITICS. EQUALLY, THE FRIENDSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES
REMAINS A FIRM PREMISE, AN EVER-WIDENING FRIENDSHIP OPEN TO A
CONTINUOUSLY UPDATED APPRECIATION. MR. VICE PRESIDENT,
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NOT MANY YEARS AGO, JOHN F. KENNEDY AFFIRMED, REFERRING TO THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND WESTERN EUROPE, THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS READY FOR A "DECLARATION OF INTERDEPENDENCE." WE CAN BY NOW SAY THAT THERE IS IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND WESTER EUROPE, IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES, AN AUTHENTIC PRACTICE OF INTERDEPENDENCE. OUR JOINT ACTION, TOGETHER WITH THE GROWTH AND CONSOLIDATION OF THE EUROPEAN STRUCTURE, IS THE CONDITION FOR THE SUCCESSFUL PURSUANCE OF DETENTE AND OF PEACE WITH EASTERN EUROPE, AND FOR THE ELABORATION OF COOPERATIVE MODELS WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. MR. VICE PRESIDENT, IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT, THE SPIRIT OF A LASTING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES THAT ON BEHALF OF MY COUNTRY, I CONVEY TO PRESIDENT CARTER MY BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFULL MANDATE AND FOR THE PROSPERITY AND HAPPINESS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. AND A PERSONAL WISH TO YOU, MR. VICE PRESIDENT, THANKING YOU DEEPLY FOR YOUR MISSION OF FRIENDSHIP AND GOOD-WILL. UNQUOTE.BURNETT

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